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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10
EB-07 MCT-01 SSM-05 AID-05 DHA-02 AGRE-00 /132 W
---------- 089299 /17
R 211630Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6767
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 3111

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PINT, EFEN, PFOR, MR
SUBJECT: DELAYED 16THANNIVERSARY; PRESIDENT'S STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

1.MAURITANIA TOOK TWO DAYS OFF DECEMBER 17 AND 18 TOMARK 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE. DELAYED CELEBRATIONS (POSTPONED BECAUSE PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH AND MANY OTHERS WERE IN SAUDI ARABIA ON PILGRIMAGE ON FORMAL ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER 27) CONSISTED OF INAUGURATION OF EIGHT NEW INDUSTRIAL AND TOURISM PROJECTS FIRST DAY PLUS SALUTE TO FLAG/DECORATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DELIVERY OF PRESIDENTS STATE OF NATION SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECOND DAY.

2. IN SOLEMN OUTDOOR CEREMONY IN FORECOURT OF PRESIDENTIAL CEREMONIAL RESIDENCE UNDER DRIZZLE OF FIRST WINTER RAIN IN YEARS. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH REVIEWED SAMPLING OF MILITARY UNITS, DECORATED TWELVE ARMY AND NATIONAL GUARD MEN (INCLUDING C/S BOUCEIF) OR BATTLE FIELD BRAVERY, AND PRESIDED OVER CEREMONIAL RAISING OF NATIONAL COLORS. IN COURSE OF
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CEREMONY, AFTER GREETING CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, MEMBERS OF NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU, MINISTER (INCLUDING EX-COLONEL VIAH IN MUFTI), AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, PRESIDENT SHOOK HAND AND CHATTED WITH EVERYONE OF SOME 400 "WORTIES AND NOTABLES" LINED UP THREE AND FOUR DEEP IN IMPRESSIVE MANIFESTATION OF POLITICAL INTER-

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ACTION BETWEEN CREATOR OF MODERN MAURITANIA AND HIS KEY CONSTITUENTS, INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN. (SECURITY OFFICER'S NIGHTMARE DID NOT APPEAR TO PHASE GIRM SECURITY PERSONNEL; THEY WERE NO-WHERE IN EVIDENCE.)

3. IN SHARP (BUT MOST WELCOME) DEPARTURE FROM TRADITION, PRESIDENT READ SHORTENED VERSION OF HIS STATE OF NATION REPORT, RELEGATING SUPPORTING DETAILS AND FIGURES TO MI-MEOGRAPHED COMPLETE TEXT OF ANNUAL MESSAGE DISTRIBUTED DURING CLOSING MOMENTS OF ASSEMBLY SESSION. HOUR-LONG SPEECH THUS TOOK ONLY HALF AS LONG AS 15TH STATE OF NATION ADDRESS. IN OPENING MOMENTS, AFTER CHARGING ALGERIA BY NAME WITH ARMED AGGRESSION IN EFFORT TO IMPOSE ITS HEGE MONY OVER ENTIRE REGION, PRESIDENT LAUDED UNIFIED RESPONSE OF POPULACE AND BRAVERY OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES, THEN ASKED ALL TO STAND AND RECITE FATIHA IN HOMAGE TO FALLEN.

4. IN CLOSING FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION (WHICH WE READ IN FULL).PRESIDENT REITERATED FOUR GOVERNING PRINCI-PLES OF MAURITANIAN FOREIGN POLICY: FAITH IN AFRICAN AND ARAB UNITY, DETERMINED SUPPORT OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES, SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONS OF THIRD WORLD, AND FAITH IN NONALIGNMENT AS MEANS FOR BRINGING ABOUT UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL NATIONS. PROCEEDING THROUGH DETAILED RECAPS OF GIRM INTERACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND RESTATEMENT OF USUAL DECLA-RATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE, PRESEDENT THEN USNGLED OUT
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SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND MOROCCO FOR SPECIAL APPRECIA-TION AND PRAISE FOR THEIR FRATERNAL COOPERATION, GENE-ROUS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. PRESIDENT'S PRAISE OF "VOLUME AND REMARKABLE QUALITY OF OUR FRIENDLY COOPE-RATION WITH CHINA" WAS INTERRUPTED BY AND THEN CAPPED WITH SUSTAINED APPLAUSE. SIMILARY HIS DESCRIPTION OF RENEWED COOPERATION WITH FRANCE WAS GREETED WITH WIDE APPLAUSE. HAVING CATALOGUED AND CHARACTERIZED GIRM RELATIONS WITH REST OF EUROPE (ONE SPARE SENTENCE FOR USSR), PRESIDENT TURNED TO NORTH AMERICA. ON U.S.HE SAID " IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA, WE SINCERELY REJOICE AT GROWING DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION TO THE CONSIDERABLE AID WHICH THIS NATION HAS BROUGHT TO US THROUGH THE CHANNEL OF MULTILATERAL COOPERTION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DROUGHT, WE NOTE AND WITH SATISFACTION THE NOT NEGLIGIBLE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WHICH THAT COUNTRY HAS EXTENDED TO US

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RECENTLY IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES."

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC03111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0396
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761224/aaaaautr.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAYED 16THANNIVERSARY; PRESIDENT'S STATE OF NATION ADDRESS
TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PINT, EFIN, PFOR, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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